

To the Honourable

# COMMITTEE OF K E N T

Y service (in all humillity) presented unto you. Then  
M Accommodating (so farre, as necessarily may bee,) of  
your desires, I give you to witt, That I have sent, and  
perused a Printed sheet of Paper, with this Inscription  
or Title (viz.) *A Page of Gold-twights, &c.* And with this subscrip-  
tion, or Postscript, (viz.) *This Appeal and Demonstration*; I com-  
mend to your Circumspect Petusalls, to merrily, and Ratify in  
forme, & with my name set at the foot of the Postscript. There be-  
ing some little varying therein from any Manuscript of mine.  
And since our Saviour doth propound, to such as profess his  
Name, as well to be *wise as Serpents*, *as innocents as Doves*; And since  
neither the Law of God, the Law of Nations, nor the Law of Ho-  
nour, doth require, or excise from any, a selfe Accusation; And be-  
ing strongly perswaded, that it hath not entered into the thoughts of  
your hearts, or the hearts of any of you, to draw any thing from me,  
either by word or writing, to be any wayes prejudiciall unto mee;  
Therefore, for the wholeness, in the Printed Paper annexed, I  
shall propose, neither Negatively, nor Affirmatively, but as a Resolu-  
tion shall be therein, I shall desire but the common benefit and pri-  
vilege

ledge of a Native Subject, in a vindicative, or defensive way, &c. As Occurrences shall Legally present.

But, to satisfie your Expectations, touching my sense of the Scope, and extent of what is contained in the said Printed Paper; I conceive, the first part thereof wholly, as well as some other parts, and passages therein, in part, concerns in speciall manner Mr. *Dennes* Practises, and expressions at the Sessions holden at the Cattle of *Canterbury*, for the East Division of the County of *Kent*, 15. July, 1645. Touching which, I shall desire (as occurrences shall permit,) a Legall Liberty of *Appeale*; And not out of any prejudice to the Person of him, or of any other man whatsoever; Nor that I make any scruple, or difference, from whose hand, or by what Power, the Stroak of Persecution is directed. But my speciall Ayme, and purpose therein, is, by all lawfull wayes, to indeavour to unfold, and bring to a cleere and Palpable discovery, to my owne, and the common Eye of the Subjects of this Kingdome; Whether my self, and others, which have been Persecuted, (since the Repeal of those Conscience-binding Lawes, by the Lords and Commons in Parliament, As in the Preface to the *Directory* appears,) have been so persecuted by Law, or without Law.

And if by Law, That then there may be an incessant indeavour, by Petitionary, and Supplicatory way, to procure a further, and small Repeal of those, and others of the same Affinity, if any such are yet in being; Put if *Divine Providence*, have so disposed, that the stings of such Conscience-binding Lawes, be already plucked out; that then my self, and the whole Kingdome, may never be wanting, to give God the Honour, and men their Respective dues therein.

If any Passage, or expression therein, shall be taken, as to Reflect upon any; either Courts, Persons, or Person in particular, I conceive it is more then by any ordinary Construction can be naturally drawn from any part, or Passage therein; there being (to my remembrance, neither Court, Persons, Person, time, nor practises, (other then as before mentioned, touching Mr. *Denne*, the then Judge,) specified therein.

Only, I shall with all due Respects unto you, Present to your Judicious considerations these three Queries ensuing.

First, If a man be enjoyned, to enter into Obligations of vast summs, to conform himself to promiscuous, and illegall Restrictions of his Birth-right Priviledges, And shall in Obediance thereunto, both confine and conforme himself, so farre, that no colour of advantage can be taken for Non-Conformity, And so of course, the Party discharged from such Obligations. And notwithstanding, upon the discharge therefrom, there be Promotions, and threats from the Judge, for Non-Conformity, (as before) to inflict the same Punishments.

## QUERE II.

Secondly, If a man Appeal to a Court, That if hee have offended the Law, hee desires to be punished by Law; if otherwise, That by the justice of the Court hee may be acquitted, And notwithstanding Sentence be pronounced against such a one, contrary to Law.

## QUERE III.

Thirdly, If a wrong party, be Indicted and Arrested, [ for exercising Religious Duties, &c. ] committed to Prison, brought forth before a Court of Judicature, claims the Priviledge of a Subject, as in the same case is due unto him: And notwithstanding the Court shall prosecute against, Sentence, and Re-imprison such a one.

What is any wise intimated touching the miscarriage of Transactors, It appears to me to Reflect equally from both parties, now in contestation. And as Arbitrary exactions cannot be Transubstantiated into Subjects Priviledges by mutation of Termes, and not things: So for my own part, 'Tis my hearty desire, that they may rather, [ by mutuell Act of Oblivion, ] be buried in the Land of forgetfulness, then to be mustered up, to be exhibited [ in their Numbers or Natures, ] to the Publick view of the World.

186

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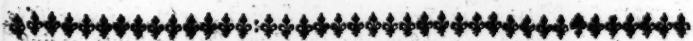
For the Seventeen Digestions, or conditionall Propositions, there-  
in inserted, (I conceive,) What is Demonstrated in them, being se-  
riously pondered, and digested, may by Christian composition, pro-  
duce wolsome Ingredients, to werke the Pulse of this Kingdom to a  
more complying Constitution, for the future Peace, and Well-being  
thereof, then yet appeares; as well as be found to be a Sovereign An-  
tidote against Forreine Attempts, and discontents.

And what in any of them may seem to have Reference, to the  
Proof of things, spoken or acted. I suppose, they would not have  
been inserted, without (I feare,) but too manifest Evidence for the  
Proof of them. And I (humbly) conceive, the onely way and  
meanes, to prevent Uncouth Consequences of such inconsiderate and  
Rash Practises, were by clipping the wings, by publicke disavowing of  
them. I desire not to multiply words; I (humbly) commit you to  
the Protection of the Almighty. And Rest,

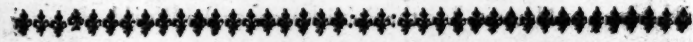
Asheford, 28. Febr.  
1645.

At your Service, where not in Active,  
there in Passive Obedience.

THO. BELKE.



To  
The Honorable the House of Commons  
in Parliament assembled  
at Westminster  
the 28th of February 1645





To the Right Honourable the House of

PEERES,

With the Honourable House of

COMMONS:

IN PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED.

*Sheweth,*

♦♦♦♦ That whereas you have mutually, by many former and later  
 ♦ T ♦ Declarations, and Manifestations, set forth your  
 ♦♦♦♦ deep sense of the deplorable condition of this languish-  
 ♦♦♦♦ ing Kingdome, Thereby presenting unto us the Consi-  
 deration thereof, to bring us home (as wee humbly conceive,) to a  
 self Examination, duely to ponder the large proportion that every  
 one of our sinnes have contributed, not onely in the kindling, but  
 likewise in the increasing, and aggravating the Prodigious flames of  
 our unnaturall Divisions; and as upon mature deliberation, (weigh-  
 ing and digesting our Condition,) wee plainly behold the distemper  
 of this divided Kingdome, still yeelding forth much combustible  
 matter to consume it self: So likewise, by the waves of our Nationall  
 and Domestick Distractions, (unlesse God worke a wonderfull  
 change both in things, and Persons, to quench the coales of jealousie  
 in our Spirits, and calme the now raging stormes,) we can expect no  
 other Issue, But that the ship of all future happinesse to this King-  
 dome, will be Totally swallowed up (as in a Deluge,) by the Waves  
 of our present Commotions, and this not long since flourishing  
 Kingdome, (having unnaturally eaten out its owne Bowells,) be left  
 as a *Golgotha*, or field of blood. And since you joyndly profess your  
 Ardent desires are, Impartially to Render to God, the things which

are Gods, And to Caesar the things that are Caesars. Wee your humble Supplicants, [as not daring to cast a Stone at the sinnes of the times, By reason of the guilt which every one of our sinnes have contracted therein : And as having a fellow-feeling of our Brethrens miseries, so being ready, and desirous to cast in our mytes, to accommodate them, and to prevent the like misery to our selves,] are imboldned humbly to Demonstrate unto you, our apprehensions and desires ensuing; As fouded upon that Royall Law, of *Living God above all, and our Neighbour as our selves.*

[*Viz.*]

First, That we are heartily willing, to part with what proportion soever, of our Estates, Reall or Personall, with the rest of the Kingdome, [in an equally, and proportionable manner.] for the defraying of the vast detriments, and expences occasioned by our unhappy divisions.

Secondly, Touching the Militia, and Judicatory, and other weighty Affaires of this Kingdome; That if there shall be such a satisfactory Balancing of them. [As Caesar may discern, an Equivalent Power, as invested in him to defend, and the Subjects a like Equivalent Power, as invested in them to preserve, and each subject being set upon leivill ground touching Native Priviledges,] wee humbly conceive, It might be as a Sovereigne Antidote, to worke the Pulse of this gasping Kingdome, to beat more hopefully, and compliantly then now it doth.

Thirdly, That as [wee humbly conceive,] the Holy One of Israel, is not to be limmitted, either to the time, or manner of receiving into his Vineyard; but revealeth himself to his in such manner, and measure, and at such boure, As he hath in his fore-knowledge ordained, [who being our Alone Lord and Master, before whom wee shall stand, or fall;] So as we dare not intrench upon Gods Prerogative, to take Dominion over the Faith of our Brethren; Neverthelesse, wee [humbly,] conceive it an unquestionable duty; And shall be ready at all times, to the utmost of our Powers, to maintain and defend Authority, and all that shall submit, to what they shall tender in spirittuall matters, in their owne enjoyments from Violation, and disturbance of All men whatsoever.

And, as wee Recent, the frequent Alarmes, (sounded into our Eares, by your DECLARATIONS, and Manifestations,) Are intended, as invitations, to put us upon a serious inquiry of our Estates; So to quicken us in our duties, [as Patients,] to make our Addresses to you, [as our Physitians next under God,] to acquaint



acquaint you, as with the grounds of the progresse of our Malady, and distemper; So with our present Constitution and seares, which seem to surprize us, Touching future inconveniences, and Enormities flowing in upon us. Wherefore wee are further imboldned, Humbly to present, to your serious Considerations, These our Apprehensions, and desires ensuing.

[ *Viz.* ]

1. That you would be pleased, to set forth, A cleere, and Genuine satisfaction, how farre, [ as you conceive, ] the Scripture doth in-right the People, to a free, and common Voice, in the Election of their Ministers.

2. That by reason of the disproportion of Livings, wee finde it causes no small trouble, in many Places, and not a little defection to divers people: In regard that many Ministers, are so easily drawne away [ by the Load-stone of worldly Lucre, ] Even as often as a greater Living presents it self, Which [ wee humbly conceive, ] if more Equally divided, would in a great measure be prevented.

3. That if Collectors were appointed in every Parish, or other division, according to the Wisdom and discretion of such as should be thereunto Assigned, and all the Livings brought into a Common Bank, or Treasury; And there distributed, as in equity should be found most meet, [ both for the present maintenance of the Ministry; And likewise in some competent proportion, [ as occasioned, ] for the comfortable livelihood of their Widdowes, and Education of their Children; Wee humbly conceive, that as by that meanes; The whole man might be the better taken up, in the worke of the Ministry: So, many Tarrings, and Discords, which are but too too frequent betwixt Ministers, and People, would cease for present, and be prevented for Future.

*The Subscribers to this Supplication, and Demonstration,  
[ humbly ] crave permission for but onely Twenty men of  
the County of ... to present the same to the King,  
and Parliament.*

SIR,

SIR,

**T**HIS Supplication, Sec. (As I have declared, for the satisfaction of the Honourable Committee of KENT, on whomsoever it may concerne,) was of my owne composing; and that many months since. Onely thus much I shall acquaint you with; That it was certified to the said Committee, that I had advanced it with a great deal of Violence, in so much that Ten thousand hands were subscribed to it. When (in Truth,) at that time, neither my owne hand, was subscribed to it, nor (to my knowledge, or helpe,) the hand of any man whatsoever. I dare not so much derogate from the Secret-masters of the Black cloath, as not to rancke them amongst the chiefe Proficients in the Art of Multiplication. It makes my heart to tremble, to ponder the unhappy consequences of giving credit to such Reports. I desire not to make further Application. But I am sure, that wee may each one endeavour to amend one. That your Information may be effected, as wee have so much spoken of, and so little acted towards. And  
Res,

Yours, in all Christian Obligations,

THOMAS BELKE

ANNE

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